

# *Boston Floating Hospital*

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*Season of 1895*



Directors: Edward Everett Hale, D.D.; Dr. Samuel  
Breck, 172 Commonwealth Ave., Supt. Medical Depart-  
ment; Rev. Rufus B. Tobey, Berkeley Temple, Managing  
Director.



Prospectus for 1895 the season of 1895

MAY 1 1962



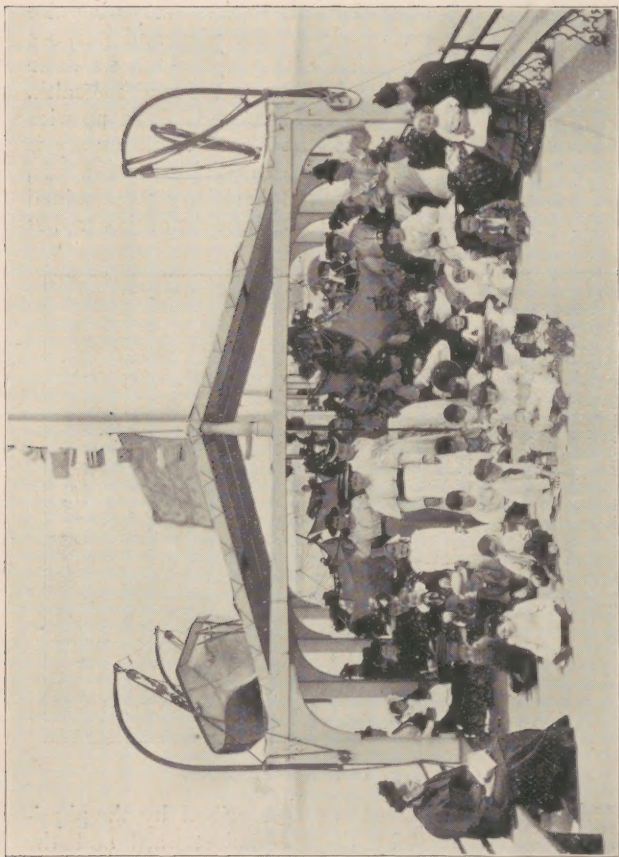
THE Floating Hospital is designed first of all for sick babies, everything else giving way to the plan and purpose to do all that possibly can be done to start the baby on the road to health. To this end a barge is fitted up with hammocks and cots, a dispensary is located on board, and the vessel is divided into wards, each one in charge of a skilled physician and a trained nurse. No food is allowed to be brought on board, but



AT THE WHARF.

both medicines and foods are prescribed by the physician and dispensed by the hospital steward and the commissary.

Several striking facts are to be noted. In the first place, a work of this sort is limited to the hottest months.



A HOSPITAL WARD.



of the year, July and August, when infants most easily succumb to disease.

Again, during the summer the majority of sick babies, whose cases are not hopeless, receive ample benefit from a single all-day treatment on the salt water, under the care and supervision of skilled physicians and trained nurses. It is fortunate that this is so, otherwise the summer hospitals would be overcrowded.

One of the chief objects aimed at in the Floating Hos-

pital service is to place the responsibility for the care of the sick baby upon the mother. While on board the Floating Hospital a doctor and a nurse look out for its welfare ; *she* is taught what to do for the child between trips, and reports each time she returns with it. The experience thus acquired is invaluable.

It is not extravagant to say that a day on the water, with the influences of air and sunlight and proper and



constant care, is the means of saving many lives. One instance, not an exceptional one, will suffice to show this. A dispensary nurse took from its mother a child apparently in a moribund condition, and brought her to the boat for a day's outing and treatment. The physician

in charge of the Floating Hospital objected to receiving the baby, on the ground that it could not live the day out under the most favorable circumstances, but the nurse assured him that she would assume the responsibility, and she was allowed to make the trip with the child.



A PATIENT AND HIS CHARMER.

A few days afterwards the child was playing about the streets.

We take children for more than one trip, where necessary, and if the condition of our treasury permitted

it, would make at least four trips per week. The subscriptions last year to this most beneficent charity were \$1962.68, and the expenses about \$1233.00, leaving a balance in hand at the close of the season of \$729.68. This balance is about equal to the receipts from the two auction sales given at Hotel Pemberton and the Atlantic House, under the patronage of Mrs. C. H. Hayes and Mrs. Josiah Hayden, in the latter part of August, but these contributions were received at a season when it was deemed inadvisable to extend the work on account of uncertain weather conditions. Since that time we have received \$1100.84, \$1000.00 of which is the generous donation of the trustees of the estate of the late John H. Dix. Deducting a few minor expenditures we have therefore on hand \$1817.77, which constitutes the present working capital of the Floating Hospital. A little more is expected from a certain source, but not a very large amount.

On the five trips of last year more than 1100 children and 650 mothers or attendants were given the benefit of Floating Hospital trip and treatment at an average cost of \$246.35. This coming season we should like to make twenty trips, and for this purpose shall need at least \$5000.00, or \$250.00 per trip. This will provide intelligent instruction for the mothers, with proper food and medicine and constant care for three to four hundred poor, sick, helpless babies. In New York City some of the noble men and women interested in the Floating Hospital of St. John's Guild assume the entire expense of a single trip. Further information will be gladly furnished by Rufus B. Tobey, Berkeley Temple, South End "A" (Telephone "Tremont 1011"), to whom contributions may be sent and to whose order checks should be made payable. Dr. F. H. Brown, Treasurer of the Seaside Hospital, 4 Exchange Place, Boston, has also kindly consented to receive contributions.





AT ANCHOR.